

**Appropriations Committee  
Testimony Governor's Bill HB-7027  
Public Hearing**

Members of the Committee:

HB-7027 is a bill concerning the State budget and includes an increase for pistol permit fees. I'm alarmed at the Governor's attempt to raise the pistol permit fees from \$70.00 to \$300.00. This unfairly targets firearm permit holders. Several years ago the governor doubled the cost of a firearm permit and now he plans to increase it from \$70 to \$300. The governor believes that a 400% increase in permit fees is justified stating that it is comparable to the fees charged by other states. I don't know where he got this information from, but as usual, it is not correct. He also believes that permit holders have caused an increased work load on the DPS personnel and that they should pay their "fair" share of the cost. The increased burden placed on the DPS personnel is the result of the law enacted by the governor in Jan 2013 which requires anyone wishing to purchase a firearm or ammunition have the appropriate permit. In order to get these permits, a background check needs to be conducted. In my opinion, this fee increase is a direct attack on gun owners and a back door attempt to curtail gun ownership.

The Governor and his Director of OPM have a long history of 'such attacks' on sportsmen. Over the last three biennial budgets offered by Governor Malloy, the fish hatchery program and the pheasant stocking program have each been 'attacked' twice. . . and these programs are fully funded by Conn Sportsmen thru their license, permits and stamp fee purchases.

I am a recreational hunter and shooter and have seen the fees for my licenses and permits skyrocket. In the past, I would buy permits even if I did not plan on hunting/fishing that species. Over the past few years, I have only purchased licenses and permits for those species I hunt and have found that it is becoming too expensive for that. I am now considering further reducing what I purchase and therefore the species that I hunt/fish.

I realize that action must be taken to try to contain the runaway state spending but unreasonable increases in permit fees/taxes are not the way to accomplish a reduction in spending and bringing balance to the State of Connecticut's budgetary woes. The governor said he is asking labor unions to work with him to help with concessions. Maybe he needs to reevaluate the outrageous salaries the football and basketball coaches at the University of Connecticut receive. I am also appalled at his proposing 250 million dollars to renovate the XL center.

I urge that you OPPOSE HB 7027 Section 48 (T1854) and Section 58 (T1938) which includes the Governor's proposed pistol permit rate hike.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jeff D. Urgitis  
Oakdale, CT**